Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 01152 102122Z ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAL-01 /115 W

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P R 102010Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9942 INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: LOS, DR
SUBJECT: PROPOSED DOMINICAN LEGISLATION TO EXTEND MARITIME
JURISDICTION

REF: (A) SANTO DOMINGO 1024, (B) SANTO DOMINGO 1026

- 1. AS INDICATED PARA 4, REF A, AMBASSADOR ARRANGED MEETING WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY JIMENEZ FOR MARCH 4. SINCE FOREIGN SECRETARY WAS SUDDENLY CALLED AWAY AT APPOINTED TIME, HE ASKED AMBASSADOR MEET WITH FOREIGN UNDERSECRETARY MARTE DE BARRIOS, WHO IS KNOWLEDGEABLE ON SUBJECT.
- 2. NOTING THAT SOME POINTS OF DOMINICAN LEGISLATION WOULD CONFLICT WITH US POSITIONS, AMBASSADOR, PURSUANT TO HIS DISCUSSION WITH D/LOS, PROPOSED TO MARTE DE BARRIOS THAT A FEW SMALL CHANGES WOULD MAKE THE LEGISLATION MORE CONSISTENT WITH US POSITIONS AND INCREASE DOMINICAN FLEXIBILITY IN LOS NEGOTIATIONS. PROPOSED CHANGES WERE:

 (A) ADDING "IN CONFORMITY WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW" TO PARAS 3 AND 4 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 SANTO 01152 102122Z

OF ARTICLE5; AND (B) IN ARTICLE 6 CHANGING THE WORD "LEGITIMATE" TO "REASONABLE" AND DELETING "RELATED TO NAVIGATION AND COMMUNICATION." UNDERSECRETARY MARTE DE BARRIOS STATED SHE WOULD CONVEY AMBASSADOR'S POINTS TO FOREIGN SECRETARY.

3. DURING VISIT TO FOREIGN SECRETARY MARCH 8, CHARGE INQUIRED RE STATUS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION AND JIMENEZ' VIEWS ON POINTS RAISED BY AMBASSADOR IN CONVERSATION WITH UNDERSECRETARY MARTE DE BARRIOS. JIMENEZ CONFIRMED THAT BILL HAD PASSED THE HOUSE BUT FOREIGN OFFICE HAD REQUESTED SENATE TO HOLD IT UP PENDING STUDY OF PROPOSED CHANGES.

- 4. AFTER REVIEWING PROPOSED CHANGES IN TEXT JIMENEZ WONDERED WHAT PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED BY ADDING "IN CONFORMITY WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW" TO PARAS 3 AND 4 OF ARTICLE5, SINCE ARTICLE 8 SPECIFIED THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAW WERE TO BE APPLIED IN HARMONY WITH THE PERTINENT NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND EXISTING AGREEMENTS. THEREUPON, HE CAREFULLY READ OUT LOUD ARTICLE 8. HIS INTERPRETATION DIFFERED FROM THAT DERIVED FROM EMBASSY'S TRANSLATION TRANSMITTED REF B.
- 5. SPANISH TEXT OF ARTICLE 8 IS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE
 LAS DISPOSICIONES DE LA PRESENTE LEY SE APLICARAN EN ARMONIA CON
 LAS NORMAS PERTIENENTES DEL DERECHO INTERNACIONAL Y LAS CONVENCIONES
 VIGENTES SOBRE LA MATERIA, LAS QUE SE APLICARAN A LA ZONA ECONOMICA
 EXCLUSIVA, EN LA MEDIDA EN QUE NO LE SEAN INCOMPATIBLES. END QUOTE
- 6. REVISED EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF THIS ARTICLE FOLLOWS: QUOTE THE PROVISIONS OF THE PRESENT LAW WILL BE APPLIED IN HARMONY WITH THE PERTINENT NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE CONVENTIONS IN EFFECT ON THE SUBJECT, THOSE APPLICABLE TO THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE, TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY ARE NOT INCOMPATIBLE WITH IT. END QUOTE
- 7. JIMENEZ EMPHASIZED THAT THE PROVISIONS OF BILL WERE INTENDED TO BE CONSISTENT WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW. HE CLARIFIED, IN THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 SANTO 01152 102122Z

CONNECTION, THAT IN ARTICLE 8, THE WORD "THEY" REFERRED TO THE "PROVISIONS OF THE PRESENT LAW" AND "IT" TO "INTERNATIONAL LAW." HE THOUGHT THEREFORE THAT THE PROPOSED ADDITION OF "IN CONFORMITY WITH INTERNATION LAW" TO PARAS 3 AND 4 OF ARTICLE 5 WAS REDUNDANT AND REPETITIOUS. CHARGE RESPONDED THAT EXACT MEANING OF ARTICLE 8 WAS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR FROM THE WORDING, THOUGH SECRETARY'S EXPLANATION MADE IT APPEAR THAT ARTICLE 8 COVERED IN SUBSTANCE INTENT OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE. HOWEVER, PROPOSED ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE IN THE TWO SPECIFIC PROVISIONS MIGHT BE USEFUL ANYWAY, FROM LEGAL STANDPOINT, IN TYING THE SUBJECTS OF THESE PROVISIONS, I.E. RESEARCH, RESOURCE EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION, AND POLLUTION, MORE CLOSELY TO INTERNATIONAL LAW. HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD CHECK FURTHER WITH STATE DEPARTMENT ON THIS POINT.

8. IN RESPONSE TO FOREIGN SECRETARY'S QUESTION AS TO PURPOSE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN ARTICLE 6, SINCE PRESENT LANGUAGE WOULD PERMIT OTHER COUNTRIES FREE USE OF EZ FOR NAVIGATION AND COMMUNICATION, CHARGE NOTED THAT THERE MIGHT BE USES OF THE SEA OTHER THAN FOR NAVIGATION AND COMMUNICATION AND OTHER THAN THOSE RESERVED FOR

THE COASTAL COUNTRY IN THE EZ, WHICH IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO MAKE ALLOWANCE FOR, AND THAT PROPOSED CHANGES WOULD ALLOW MORE FLEXIBILITY IN LOS NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS MATTER.

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